

curiosity is aroused if brothers differ widely in their politics. The transfer of votes which turns out a government occurs for the most part amongst the working classes, and in greatest measure it may be suspected amongst the least intelligent of their ranks. To these men party rivalries are of no serious interest. It pleases them to be on the winning side, and they will vote for the party which is shown by the trend of the contest to have the best chance of victory. Moreover, they are apt to be misled by an incorrect connection of happenings as cause and effect, in the light of which the party in office appears to blame for anything that disturbs the regularity of life, whether it be a rainy summer or a rise in prices*. There is, further, an instinctive desire for change of government with those who are not bound to it by feelings of allegiance. Accordingly, from the day on which a ministry takes office a mutinous spirit begins to show itself amongst such of its supporters as are not pledged to it by family habit or by sentimental loyalty; and these people, when a general election comes round, are ready to lay hold of any handle against it, unless their affections have been reattached by definite promises of personal advantage or by such a passionate interest as is excited by any question of national prestige. It follows then, that the complexion of the British Government is

determined
by the least intelligent of British
citizens. No
system could be worse in theory. Yet in
practice
it works passably well.

It is, then, a complicated
assortment of
impulses which determines the voting
of a par-
liamentary constituency. There is
the respect